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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,499	10/07/2005	Hiroshi Kodera	050-113	2278
7590	04/16/2007		EXAMINER	
Apex Juris 13194 Edgewater Lane Northeast Seattle, WA 98125			SINGH, KAVEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3651	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	04/16/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/552,499	KODERA, HIROSHI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kavel P. Singh	3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 October 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, the word "means" is preceded by the word(s) "detection, moving, and controlling" in an attempt to use a "means" clause to recite a claim element as a means for performing a specified function. However, since no function is specified by the word(s) preceding "means," it is impossible to determine the equivalents of the element, as required by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. See *Ex parte Klumb*, 159 USPQ 694 (Bd. App. 1967).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi U.S. Patent No. 5,609,463.

Claim 1, Kobayashi teaches a receiving portion (P) with directionality for receiving a waterproof seal (2) which is a disc-like rotating body with inclination in a predetermined

angle; a receiving recess radially provided at the periphery of the receiving portion to be released in an outside of an axial right angle of the receiving portion and an upper surface, the receiving recesses (P) receive the waterproof seal (2) with top thereof directing a center of the receiving portion (Fig. 1); a cover (10) for restricting a movement of the receiving portion of the waterproof seal (2) received by the receiving recess toward the outside of the axial right angle and surrounding the periphery of the receiving portion (C4 L15-20); a take-out means with a take-out exit opening at an inner circumferential surface of the cover to taking out the waterproof seal received in the receiving recess in the axial right direction; a moving means for moving the receiving recess from a receiving region where the waterproof seal (2) is received by the receiving recess to the take-out means by way of a rotational motion of the receiving portion (C4 L41-43); and an exclusion means for eliminating a chance of moving the waterproof seal which is not received by the receiving recess (12) and is among the waterproof seals (2) from the receiving region to the take-out means.

Claim 2, Kobayashi teaches a receiving detection means having a first sensor for detecting a positioning bore standing corresponding to the receiving recess and a second sensor for detecting a slit formed in the receiving recess; and a controlling means for controlling the take out means as determining that the waterproof seal is received by the receiving recess when a result of the receiving detection means shows that the first sensor detects the positioning bore and the second sensor does not detect the slit (C5 L42-49).

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Claim 4, Kobayashi teaches the waterproof seal (2) supplied from the parts feeder is inserted in an end of an electrical transmission cable (W); and a connecting terminal is attached to perform press-connection (C4 L8-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi U.S. Patent No. 5,609,463 in view of Mochizuki U.S. Patent No. 5,826,697.

Claim 3, Kobayashi teaches the moving means has a motor (40); and the controlling means, when taking out the waterproof seal (2) by the taking out means, controls the moving means to stop the movement of the receiving portion (C5 L42-49), but does not teach a stepping motor as Mochizuki teaches (1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a stepping motor as taught by Mochizuki into the invention of Kobayashi to allow the disc to rotate forwards or backwards.

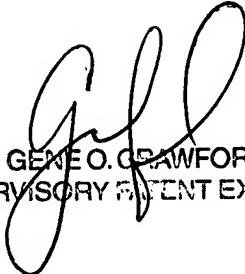
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ms. Kavel P. Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-2362. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KPS



GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER